to be postponed for a week, to give time for consideration. They were now brought into a "mess" from having ordered the work to be done, issued their advertisements, and received the money of the Westminster Improvement Commissioners. He also contended that the resolution passed could not be rescinded without notice of motion.

There appeared to be very conflicting opinions as to the legal bearings of the case, Sir Edward Pearson, on the part of the Westminster Commissioners, stating that they looked upon the plan as a "contract," and so anxious were they to commence their works, that they would even sacrifice 3,000*l.* rather than the question should be again re-opened. The subject was brought to a close by the adoption of the following resolutions, proposed by Mr. Chadwick:—"That as the work proposed is extraordinary business, and as such required notice, the order for it is invalid..

"That the reports of Messrs. Phillips and Gotto and Mr. Austin, be printed, and referred to the Works Committee."

Miscellanea.

SYRO-EGYPTIAN SOCIETY AND THE PANORAMA OF THE NILE.—On Thursday evening, in last week, the exhibition of the Panorama of the Nile was closed to the public to enable the Syro-Egyptian Society and their friends to hold a meeting "in the presence." Dr. Lee was in the chair, Mr. Bonomi described the panorama, and Mr. Sharp, Mr. Gliddon, the American Egyptologist, whose tone savours a *leetle* too much of Sir Oracle, the Chairman, and others, differed very pleasantly, and gave the unlearned part of the audience a notion of the want of positive knowledge under some heads, which still exists. The last discussion was on the Pyramids, which all who spoke on the subject agreed were royal tombs, and the nucleus of circumjacent cemeteries. The pyramid of Ghizeh was once encased with stone, 20 feet thick, as some of the pyramids of Sakkara are at present. The work of destruction as regards this surface commenced in the twelfth or thirteenth century, and continued almost down to our own day. At present, and for several years past, it has presented a front of rugged mason work, easy to ascend, but unseemly to look at. Finally, the Sphinx was pronounced to be a portrait statue, as far as the head is concerned, of Amenoph II., supposed to be identical with Cheops, who is stated by the Greek historian Herodotus to be the builder of the great pyramid of Ghizeh. At the close, men qualified to judge bore testimony to the accuracy and beauty of the panorama. It is still with us a matter of regret that it was not painted to be lighted from the front.

THE VALUE OF AN ARCHITECT AND SURVEYOR IN HASTINGS.—The Commissioners of Hastings have addressed an advertisement "to architects and surveyors," intimating that they are about to elect such a person to do the business of the town. His duty will be, they say, "to prepare plans, specifications, and estimates of all public works directed by the commissioners within the limits of their Act, and to superintend their execution, as well as to inspect the execution of all private works permitted by the commissioners; to superintend the draining, paving, scavengering, repairing, and watering of the streets and public places; to pay the labourers' wages, examine the tradesmen's accounts, keep all accounts connected with the office, and to attend at all general and committee meetings of the commissioners, and generally do all the duties of the office of surveyor." He must have a practical knowledge of levelling, and of the several branches of building and other works connected with the office of surveyor; and be prepared to undergo an examination as to the extent of his knowledge. For all which he is, when appointed, to receive the enormous salary of 75*l.* per annum. The Hastings Commissioners seem to have a liberal idea of the value of knowledge. A journeyman bricklayer, earning 30*s.* a-week, would lose by being promoted to the appointment.

TERRA COTTA.—The proprietors of the Cliffe Terra Cotta Works, Wakefield, Yorkshire, have determined on executing any of the chimney-tops, ornaments, tracery, &c., given in the publications of the Architectural Publication Society, on receiving an order for not less than twenty-five of a sort.

PROJECTED WORKS.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders, by 26th September, for the erection of schools, dormitories, workshops, and other buildings for 600 children at Penge; by 26th, for building a boys' school-house at St. Pancras workhouse; by 26th, for the erection of new workhouse at Kirbymoorside, Yorkshire (several tenders); by 23rd, for draining at Kennington-cross; by 22nd, for erection of national school at Spofforth; by 25th, for erection of farm-house and offices at Burnham, Essex; by 18th, for supply and fixing of iron roofs over various stations on Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway; by 19th, for essential oil lamps, three-jet gas-burners and supply of gas, &c., at All Saints, Poplar; and by 15th, for building 5,200 feet of brick sewer and other works at Parliament-street, &c., Westminster.

ENAMELS FOR IRON.—Mr. Charles Stumer, of New York, has recently secured a patent, which he describes to consist "in providing an enamel for iron and other metals, which will retain its adhesion to the metal, and particularly is not capable of being crumbled or broken off by blows or by heat, this possessing the quality of comparatively commingling with the surface of the metal. Thus it is far superior to any known enamelling for metals, and may be modified so as to render it in all the shades of colours, in full variety. 1.—16 ounces of gravel sand, 10 ounces of silver glass (silver gilt or silver gilding), 2 ounces of white clay, ½ of an ounce of saltpetre. 2.—7 ounces of glass (common white glass), 4 ounces of gravel sand, 8 ounces of grain reanocks (or oxide of tin), 6 ounces of borax, 1½ ounce of soda, 3 ounces of saltpetre, 1½ ounce of white clay, 1 ounce of magnesia, ½ of an ounce of white chalk, ½ of an ounce of oyster shells; this should be pulverized like first composition, and then mixed with the gum water. *Claim*—What I claim as new, and desire to secure by letters patent, is the peculiar composition, composed of the parts and compounded as described. — *Franklin Journal.*

EDUCATION AT PUTNEY COLLEGE.—The Rev. Morgan Cowie, the principal here, has published a letter to the Duke of Buccleuch, pointing out the requirements of the day in education, and that they endeavour to meet these requirements at Putney. "A useful, intelligent, improving race," says Mr. Cowie, "well imbued with sound principles of science, would be the real strength of the country; and this must be secured by beginning at the commencement, by educating our youth before they are called upon to act, by furnishing them with sound views of science, and with an accurate knowledge of the great progress that has been made in all the arts, and of the means of that progress." Increased funds are evidently required; the college has not had fair play yet, and we think so well of its capabilities that we shall be glad to see the public taking it up in earnest. We suggest to our readers who are fathers, to look into the constitution of the establishment for themselves, and see if they cannot make it useful.

PORCHESTER CASTLE.—This time-honoured relic of antiquity, midway between Fareham and Portsea, Hants, is now to become another Cremorne or Rosherville. The railway will lend its aid to carry holidaymakers to the spot, and "enterprising proprietors" expect to render it the most attractive place of resort on the southern coast of England.

CLERKENWELL GRAVEYARDS.—Sir: Any person who may think proper to walk through Clerkenwell-close or Clerkenwell-green will be convinced of the truth of my remark, viz.—that the churchyards are several feet *above the public ways*. There are two points to which your attention is directed; 1st, instead of *four* graveyards in Clerkenwell, as mentioned by the surveyor of the district, there are *seven*; and, 2ndly, when that gentleman asks, "what depth do I assume to be the average of burials?" he loses sight of the parlours, kitchens, cellars, pantries, &c., being entirely *below* the graveyards. I had to underpin a wall adjoining one of these horrors only a few weeks ago, on which occasion skulls and bones fell into the cellar, and ends of coffins were presented to view like squares of black masonry, and *close to the wall*. The *only cure* is to cease burying in all towns and crowded neighbourhoods.

W. P. GRIFFITH.

REORGANIZING SEWERS' COMMISSION.—The task undertaken by the present commissioners was a gigantic one, and they would probably have failed, even had they brought extraordinary knowledge and ability to bear upon it. It is a subject that has long occupied my attention, and I feel sure that one general commission cannot fulfil properly the duties devolving upon several local commissioners. It appears to me unreasonable and unconstitutional that those whose lives and properties are chiefly affected, and who find the funds for all that is done, should be excluded from all management of themselves and their properties. I would suggest that all or some portion of the commissioners should be elected. I think it would answer well to have half appointed by the crown, and half elected. There should be twelve or twenty commissioners to each district, according to the size. Each district commission should elect one of its body, to be one of a general committee, who should have power to determine all questions affecting the general interest, and decide upon plans for general drainage, &c.—CHARLES TOOKE.

NEW MODE OF VENTILATION.—The *Literary Gazette* states that Dr. Chowne has enrolled a patent for improvements in ventilating rooms and apartments, based upon an action in the syphon which has not previously attracted the notice of any experimenter, viz., that if fixed with legs of unequal length, the air rushes into the *shorter leg*, and circulates up, and discharges itself from the *longer leg*. "It is easy to see how readily this can be applied to any chamber, in order to purify its atmosphere. Let the orifice of the shorter leg be disposed where it can receive the current, and lead it into the chimney (in mines, into the shaft), so as to convert that chimney or shaft into the longer leg, and you have at once the circulation complete. The curiosity of this discovery is that air in a syphon reverses the action of water, or other liquid, which enters and descends or moves down in the longer leg, and rises up in the shorter leg!" We ought to remark that fires or heating apparatus are not at all necessary; and that, as the specification expresses it, "this action is not prevented by making the shorter leg hot whilst the longer leg remains cold, and no artificial heat is necessary to the longer leg of the air-syphon to cause this action to take place."

ARCHITECTURAL COPYRIGHTS.—Sir: I have by me a view of a congregational chapel, proposed to be erected at Cockermouth, bearing the name of C. Eaglesfield as the architect. I have been credibly informed that the original drawings of Myrtle-street Baptist Chapel, Liverpool, have been put into the possession of this self-styled architect, copies sent to Day and Son, from which *they* have made a perspective view, and the design is not only passed off as the work of a local builder, assuming a professional title, but the original designer is robbed of his fairly earned honour and remuneration. Let him look to the Myrtle-street Chapel deacons, who ought to be informed that (*perhaps* unintentionally) they have unfairly made a double use of that for which they only paid a single price, and are the principals in perpetuating a serious form of immorality, by depriving the designer (to whom a design *must* always belong) of his recognized honour and remuneration, and at the same time sanctioning the present system of quackery so prevalent in every profession. I enclose my address.—AN ARCHITECT.

ANOTHER MODE OF RAISING THE BRITANNIA TUBES.—A correspondent of the *Times* (Mr. J. Faulding) suggests that the tube might be raised without waiting for the casting and testing, and, after all, the still remaining risk, of a new hydraulic machine, in place of the one that lately burst. The power of the tide-rise of 15 feet, with pontoons and proper scaffolding, heightened, at low tide, 15 feet for every lift, constitutes the main elements of the suggestion; and of course during each lift the process of wedging, building in under the tube, &c., would be gone on with as heretofore. The writer further proposes that, to save further expense, both the parallel tubes might be thus raised simultaneously. Tidal power, he observes, might also have been used to work the presses in place of steam, even had the great expense of forming and elevating such huge hydraulic presses, chains, frames, &c., been unavoidable.

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